

REMARKS

Claims 4-16 and 20-110 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 17, as well as claims 7-9 and 23-25, are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 4-11 and 20-27 are amended and claims 35-110 are added. Claims 4 and 20 are rewritten in independent form to include the subject matter of the independent claims 1 and 17, respectively. Claims 5-11 and 21-27 are amended only to correct their dependencies. Claims 35-110 recite allowable subject matter of previously examined claims. Thus, no new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration, as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; and (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. Allowed/Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 33 and 34, as well as the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4, 7-10, 14-16, 20, 23-26 and 30-32 is appreciated. The allowable subject matter is indicated as being allowable if written in independent form to include all the features the base claim and any intervening claims. Allowable claims 4-10 and 20-26 are rewritten in independent form as claims 4, 35, 47, 59, 72, 20, 73, 85, 97 and 110, respectively. Thus, all allowable claims are in condition for allowance.

II. Claim Objections

Claims 1 and 17 are objected to due to a grammatical error. As claims 1 and 17 are canceled the objections to the claims is moot. Further, as the subject matter of original claims 1 and 17 is incorporated into the allowable claims, the grammatical error is corrected in the

current recitation. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to claims 1 and 17 is respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 11-13 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Specifically, it is indicated that claims 11 and 27 depend on canceled claims. The claims are amended in response to the rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11-13 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

IV. Claims Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 5, 6, 17, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,258,815 to Nakagawa et al. (Nakagawa). As claims 1 and 17 are canceled the rejection of those claims is moot. Moreover, claims 5, 6, 21 and 22 are amended to depend from allowable claims, those claims having been rewritten in independent form to incorporate allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Nakagawa fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, as amended.

V. New Claims

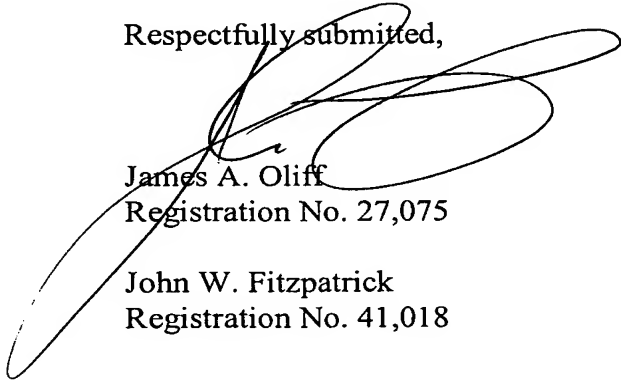
None of claims 35-110 are anticipated or rendered obvious by the applied references. Specifically, each of the new claims contains subject matter found to be allowable in the previously examined claims and therefore is neither disclosed or suggested in the applied references.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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